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Iona Roy
Manager
Harmony Alliance

Dear Ms Roy,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Harmony Alliance's election priorities.

What measures will your party take to promote equality and multiculturalism in Australia?

The Greens know that Australia is one of the most successful multicultural nations on earth. Our incredible diversity is our strength - it's who we are. Generations of migrants and refugees have made Australia home, with every single one of us adding to the social, cultural and economic fabric of our nation. In order to protect and strengthen multiculturalism in Australia, we'll introduce a Federal Multicultural Commission to provide independent advice to government and undertake evidence-based research on multicultural issues and ongoing community engagement. We will always champion diversity in our communities.

The Greens will always fight for our rights, champion diversity and call out discrimination, bias and bigotry. We will make sure that everyone has the opportunity to live a good life, free from discrimination. That's why we will: Work with First Nations People, to establish a path for sovereignty and treaties and to close the gap; Close offshore detention and create a safe pathway for people who seek our help; Ensure equality for women in all aspects of society, including at work; Stamp out systemic racism and hate speech; Make Australia accessible and fully fund the NDIS; Ensure LGBTIQ+ people have full equality under the law and in our communities; Create a charter of rights; Make Australia a good global citizen, by supporting peace and demilitarisation. You can find more detail on all our policies at <https://greens.org.au/policies>

What measures will your party take to ensure women from migrant and refugee backgrounds are provided with equitable access to, and experience of, the Australian healthcare system, in order to achieve equal health outcomes?

The Greens believe that access to quality healthcare is a human right, and that culturally and linguistically diverse populations should have access to care in a safe and culturally appropriate environment. The Greens believe that refugees and people seeking asylum living in Australian communities should receive fair levels of support from the government. This would include income support, housing, access to Medicare, trauma and torture counselling, English language courses and employment assistance. This commitment was demonstrated in our leadership of the Medevac Bill which meant that currently detained refugees would be brought to Australia to access healthcare when they need it. In addition to this, we will: - ensure that refugees and people seeking asylum living in Australian communities should receive fair levels of support from the government.



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This would include income support, housing, access to Medicare, trauma and torture counselling, English language courses and employment assistance; - adequately fund public health care to ensure that all Australians can access the healthcare they need; - create a new ten-year, \$5.3 billion National Partnership Agreement on Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women between state and federal governments

What measures will your party take to improve the employment outcomes of women from migrant and refugee backgrounds, including pay equity?

The Greens will set gender pay equality as an objective of awards and the Fair Work Act. We also support measures to ensure appropriate classification and pay for work in traditionally low paid industries where the majority of workers are women and/or migrants.

What measures will your party take to improve access to education for women from Migrant and refugee backgrounds?

The Greens strongly support greater resourcing of culturally inclusive state and local government programs and services. The Greens are proud to be strong advocates for equal access to education, services, and social support in settlement for refugee and migrant women and funding for culturally inclusive education. The Greens' plan to make university and TAFE completely fee-free will mean greater access for women from CALD, migrant and refugee backgrounds. In addition to this, the Greens will invest \$50m to provide better English language support, through the following initiatives:

1. Stop the undermining of the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) and begin an urgent review to reverse the outsourcing of services.
2. Ensure the development and implementation of a nationally agreed English language proficiency framework for assessing and reporting on the needs and progress of students learning English as an Additional (EAL) language in schools.
3. Support the development of effective post-school education and training pathways for migrant and refugee youth who have difficulty accessing the education and training system due to a lack of English and prior education.
4. Establish a dedicated unit in the Department of Education and Training to oversee and coordinate language in education and training.

What measures will your party take to ensure the availability of safe and adequate housing for all women from migrant and refugee backgrounds?

The Greens' bold plan to build 500,000 affordable and rent-controlled social homes will mean greater access for all. In addition, the Greens will increase funding for crisis housing services to \$500m per year, which will be especially targeted to vulnerable cohorts; women, LGBTIQ+, First Nations, and women of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and refugee and migrant women. The Greens are committed to achieving equality for women. We have a plan to ensure women are safe, valued and treated as equals in private and public life, and we will put in place legal, workplace and economic reforms that directly address the key causes of inequality for women in Australia and around the world.



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What measures will your party take to improve access to early childhood care for children from migrant and refugee backgrounds?

The Greens' plan will make childcare fee-free for one in four families, or 80% of families in Australia. We will also remove the activity test to access the child care subsidy. We will extend free preschool education to 3-year-olds and the number of available hours to 24 per week, which will mean universal early childhood education for 3 and 4 years old.

What measures will your party take to prevent violence against women from migrant and refugee backgrounds, and to support victims/survivors?

The Greens will fully fund frontline crisis response services and primary prevention for domestic violence, at \$5.3 billion over ten years. This will allow for specialist services which are responsive to the needs of all women including migrants and people with a disability, as well as LGBTIQ+ people. We will legislate to double domestic violence leave from five to ten days. Further, we will provide an additional \$200 million over four years to a Survivor Grant Fund, giving up to 50,000 survivors grants of up to \$4000 to minimise financial hardship when leaving an abusive scenario. The grants would be prioritised for people at highest risk of domestic violence.

What is your vision for Australia's migration program, in particular regarding pathways to permanency, citizenship backlogs, family visa processing times and humanitarian commitments?

The Australian Greens have a plan to abolish temporary protection visas and reintroduce permanent protection, provide faster and fairer pathways for New Zealanders to obtain Australian citizenship, allocate more resources to processing applications for Australian citizenship, and clear the backlog of parent visas that are languishing in an indefinite limbo. The Greens will also launch our family visa policy very soon.

The Greens refugee policy will also return Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) payments, and increase it to the same rate as Newstart, for those that need it, and reinstate Humanitarian Settlement Services and Complex Case Support programs and funding. Our policy will also end offshore boat turnbacks and detention, increase humanitarian intake to 50,000ppl p.a., establish a regional processing solution, implement 7 day limit for onshore detention, Abolish temporary protection and fast track processing, and create a private sponsorship refugees program, similar to Canada's.

In the last parliament, the Australian Greens stopped changes to section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act, stopped changes to the Australian Citizenship Act that would have introduced a standalone English language test and increased the waiting period for eligibility, Stopped a doubling of the 'assurance of support' income requirement for family reunion visas, Stopped the extension of fast-track processing, sponsored the 'Medivac amendment' that ultimately passed into law, led debate on onshore & offshore detention, and set policy bar for other progressive parties.





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Once again, thank you for the opportunity to respond to your submission. I look forward to continuing to work with you to progress these issues.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Richard Di Natale

Leader of the Australian Greens & Senator for Victoria



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